

10 January 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Division and Staff Chiefs

SUBJECT : Plans for the CS Historical Program

1. Current Status: As of the end of 1972, 185 histories had been published in the Clandestine Service Historical Paper (CSHP) series. An additional 34 papers had been completed and were in review, revision, or final typing. While some CS divisions and staffs have completed their scheduled programs, others are in process of bringing draft papers to completion. In most instances where papers have not been started or lack writers, they have been eliminated from the current CS program.
2. Ongoing Program: The Executive Director-Comptroller, looking to the future historical program, has requested

. . . a smaller program which would deemphasize component or station history and focus instead on situations in which the Agency has provided significant support to US policy or other topical subjects involving major support to intelligence programs.

He continues:

It is my thought that by a much more compact program, oriented in large part toward actions with which the Agency has been publicly identified, we can reduce the personnel drain on the directorates, minimize dependence on annuitants, and use as writers, the historians now assigned to the Historical Staff, together with other persons detailed to the Staff for limited periods of time to write on topics for which they are qualified by their own experience. This might also put us in a better position to respond to pressures that might develop as a result of Executive Order 11652. I believe we can anticipate increasing numbers of requests for documents of COI and OSS that have passed the magic thirty-year mark as well as requests for mandatory review of ten-year-old documents.

3. By way of illustration, the Executive Director and the Chief, CIA Historical Staff have proposed the attached list of topics which might be covered in the future CS historical program. CS comment has been invited. Divisions and staffs are requested to review and, where appropriate, comment on these titles. Recommendations for other, and possibly more suitable topics are also requested.

4. Divisions and staffs should provide an estimate as to their ability to staff or contribute to the program where their particular components are involved. The following considerations should be borne in mind:


a. The CS historical staff is limited in size and is fully engaged in the processing papers from the earlier program which have been completed in draft or are nearing completion. The staff will not be able to provide historical writers in the foreseeable future.

b. The availability of annuitants will be very limited but will be considered on a case by case basis, subject to the Executive Director's final approval.

c. Staff personnel detailed to the program should be well qualified. The historical program should not be used, as occasionally in the past, to accommodate surplus staff personnel without regard to their ability to write and to organize material.

5. Responses to this memorandum should be directed to the Executive Secretary, CS Historical Board who will assemble the views of CS components concerning the future historical program. Component views, in writing, should be submitted by 17 January 1973.

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Thomas H. Karamessines  
Deputy Director for Plans

Attachment:  
As stated